

Secret Paper Says Press 'Slanted' War

By Laurence Stern
 and Sanford J. Ungar

Washington Post Staff Writers

During the secret deliberations of the top Nixon administration policy makers on the Indo-Pakistani crisis last month, an assistant secretary of defense accused the press of "slanting" its war coverage against Pakistan.

Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs G. Warren Nutter made the charge in an exchange with President Nixon's national security adviser, Henry A. Kissinger, during the White House session on December 4.

"It goes without saying," Nutter commented, "that the entire press is slanting this war to place the entire blame on the Pakistanis and to show that they attacked India."

Kissinger then said, "This has been a well-done political campaign for which we will pay."

The exchange was recorded in a "memorandum for record" prepared by James H. Noyes, a deputy to Nutter.

The memorandum, which purportedly quotes the participants directly, is one of several documents that have been in the possession of The Washington Post, which obtained them from columnist Jack Anderson.

It covers the same meeting as another memorandum published in Wednesday's editions of The Washington Post. The other memorandum, drafted by Navy Capt. Howard N. Kay for the Joint Chiefs of Staff, reported the secret session in paraphrase form.

The Noyes memorandum also recorded Kissinger's assertion that President Nixon was angry with the version of events that was being put out in State Department press back-grounders.

This issue came up during discussion of American strategy in the United Nations debate over the war.

"Both Yahya (West Pakistan President Yahya Khan) and Mrs. Gandhi are making belli-

cose statements. If we refer to Mrs. Gandhi's in our statement, do we not also have to refer to Yahya's?" asked Assistant Secretary of State Samuel dePalma.

Kissinger is reported as replying:

"The President says either the bureaucracy should put out the right statement on this, or the White House will do it. Can the UN object to Yahya's statements about defending his country?"

DePalma answered: "We will have difficulty in the UN because most of the countries who might go with us do not want to tilt toward Pakistan to the extent we do."

"Whoever is doing the back-grounding at State," Kissinger is then quoted as saying, "is invoking the President's wrath. Please try to follow the President's wishes."

At another point, Kissinger is quoted as expressing, in bitter terms, his pessimism about the eventual outcome of the U.N. Security Council meeting. "Nothing will happen at the Security Council because of Soviet vetoes. The whole thing is a farce."

As events developed, the Soviet Union did veto the resolution sponsored by the United States and other countries calling for a mutual pulling back of troops and an immediate cease fire.

Kissinger is also recorded as having said: "We have told the Paks we would make our statement. Let's go ahead and put in our own statement anyway regardless of what other countries want to do."

"We need now to make our stand clear even though it has taken us two weeks of fiddling. We need our resolution tabled. We want to insist on a cease-fire and withdrawal of forces before the details of a political settlement are considered."

India opposed the pull-back resolution on grounds that its troops would have to withdraw to bases more than 400 miles from the border while the Pakistani bases were only a few miles from the front.

The discussion by the National Security Council's Washington Special Action Group, the nation's top international crisis directorate, was opened by Central Intelligence Agency Director Richard M. Helms.

Helms alluded to Soviet support for the emerging conflict. In an aside to his

colleagues the CIA director advised:

"You should all read our new study 'Moscow and India-Pakistan Crisis.'"

Anderson's disclosures of secret U.S. policy discussions about the Indo-Pakistani crisis brought an announcement yesterday from a second congressional committee that hearings will be held on the government's security classification system.

Rep. William Moorhead (D-Pa.) said his House Subcommittee on Foreign Operations and Government Information will open extensive hearings in March.

They will cover the first five years of operations of the Freedom of Information Act, as well as "the whole problem of classification," including the Anderson documents.

Moorhead conceded there may be "overlap" with an investigation announced Wednesday by the House Armed Services Committee.

An FBI investigation into Anderson's sources for the Indo-Pakistani documents continued yesterday. Justice Department sources said, however, that it was not of the scale of an earlier probe concerning disclosures of the Pentagon Papers on the war in Vietnam.